



File Code: 1950-1  
Route To: (1950)

Date: March 13, 2008

Subject: 2008 Lolo National Forest Mushroom Picking Season

To: Hello,

The Lolo National Forest is currently evaluating opportunities for mushroom harvesting within the areas burned by wildfires in 2007.

The Forest is expecting visitation of up to several hundred people who wish to pick mushrooms for personal use, or for commercial re-sale. To manage these uses, we are proposing to designate portions of the Chippy Fire located on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, and portions of the Jocko Lakes Fire located on the Seeley Lake Ranger District, for commercial harvesting. Other fires across the Forest would be available for personal use picking only (*see attached map*). Personal use picking would not be permitted within the commercially designated areas of the Chippy and Jocko Lakes Fires.

The Forest is proposing to utilize a "fee" permit system for commercial harvesting and personal use picking (*see attached Questions and Answers*). Incidental picking (five gallons or less) for individual use would not require a permit and there would be no charge. The non-refundable permits would only be valid on the Lolo National Forest.

Commercial harvest permits would only be sold at the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger Station in Plains, and at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station in Seeley Lake. Personal use permits would be sold at all administrative offices in Missoula, Plains, Thompson Falls, Seeley Lake, Ninemile, and Superior (*see attached map*). Information (including regulations, maps, etc.) would be available at the above offices or on line at <http://www.fs.fed.us/rl/lolo/>.

The Forest is not proposing to designate any specific locations for camping within or near the fires. However, to help ensure camp areas are restored after use, commercial pickers would be required to have a permit to camp. Personal-use pickers would be allowed to camp (less than 14 day stay) without permit at dispersed areas in or near the fires. The Forest's developed "fee-site" campgrounds would also be available to all pickers for stays of less than 14 days.

Mushroom harvest across the Forest may vary with local weather conditions, but is expected to occur between April and July. No specific permitted season or picking start/end dates are proposed for the Forest.

To help protect forest resources during the mushroom collection period, additional measures taken by the Forest would include:

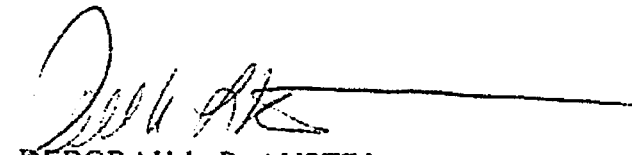
- *Increased law enforcement within the fire areas.*
- *Commercial buying stations would not be permitted on National Forest Lands.*
- *All campers on the Forest would be required to observe the terms of the Lolo National Forest Food Storage Order.*



- *All collection of mushrooms would be limited to hand-picking. No raking or mechanical harvesting would be permitted.*
- *No vehicle use would be permitted off of National Forest System Roads.*

Questions and comments on this proposal may be electronically mailed to: [comments-northern-lolo@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-lolo@fs.fed.us). Written questions and comments may be sent to: *Boyd Hartwig, Public Affairs Officer, Lolo National Forest, Fort Missoula Building 24, Missoula, MT 59804*. Boyd may also be contacted at (406) 329-1024. All comments should be mailed to the Forest by April 12, 2008.

Sincerely,



DEBORAH L. R. AUSTIN  
Forest Supervisor

enclosures

# Lolo National Forest 2007 Mushroom Harvest

**Commercial Use Permits Available at**  
Plains Ranger Station  
Seeley Lake Ranger Station

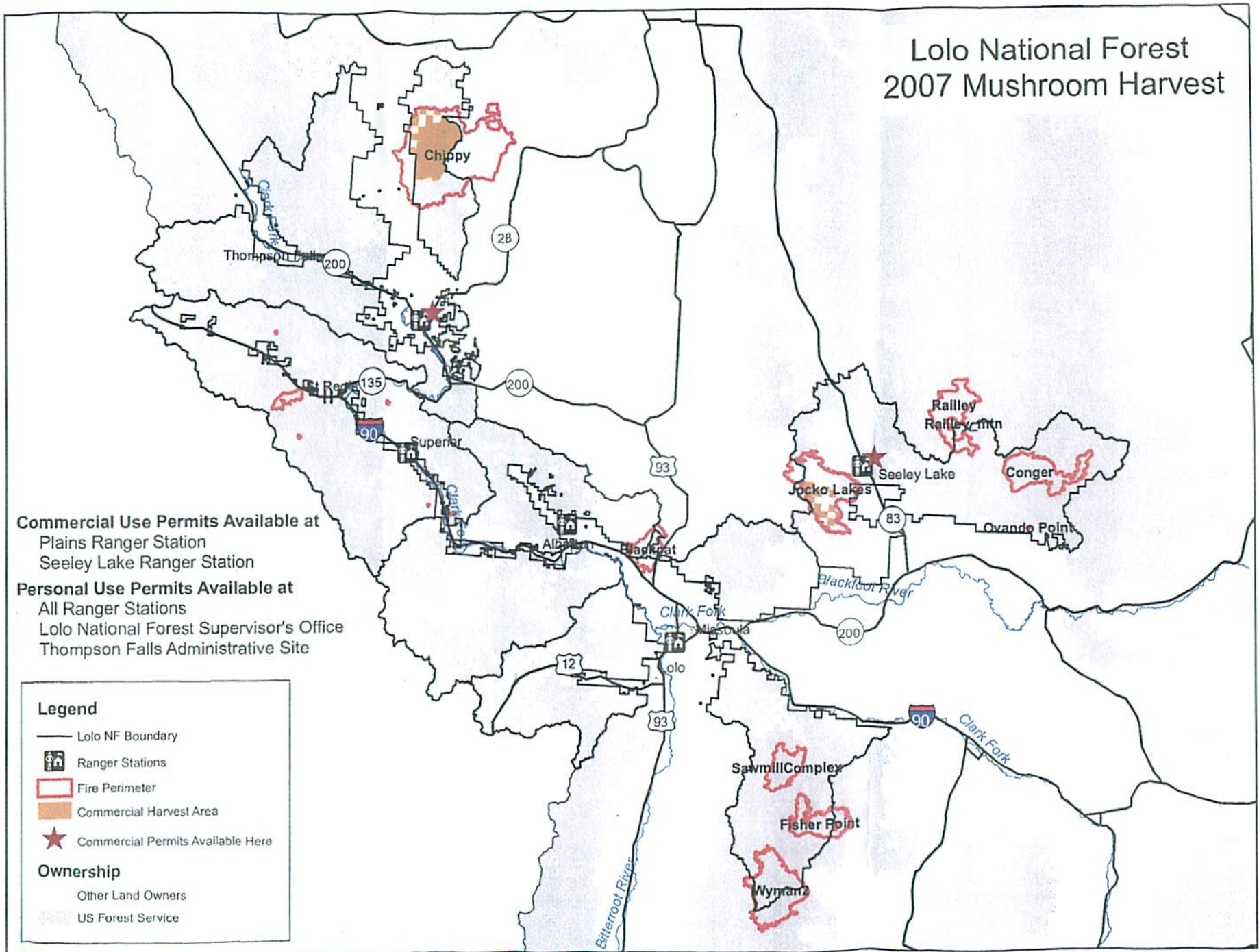
**Personal Use Permits Available at**  
All Ranger Stations  
Lolo National Forest Supervisor's Office  
Thompson Falls Administrative Site

## Legend

-  Lolo NF Boundary
-  Ranger Stations
-  Fire Perimeter
-  Commercial Harvest Area
-  Commercial Permits Available Here

## Ownership

-  Other Land Owners
-  US Forest Service



# **LOLO NATIONAL FOREST PROPOSED MUSHROOM PERMIT SYSTEM**

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Incidental Use**

**Where can Incidental Use pickers pick ?** Incidental picking may occur at any location across the Forest except within the areas designated for Commercial Harvest on the Chippy Fire and Jocko Lakes Fire.

**Can I pick as many mushrooms as I want?** You may pick up to 5 gallons for the season. If you purchase a permit, you may pick more (*see Personal-Use Permits and Commercial Harvest Permits*).

**Are there Age Requirements for Incidental Use?** No, any person may collect up to the 5 gallon limit for the season.

**Does a mushroom picked for incidental use need to be sliced?** Yes, all mushrooms picked for incidental use must be sliced in-half lengthwise at the time of picking.

**Do I need a permit for Incidental Use?** No, a permit is not required for incidental use of mushrooms.

## **Personal-Use Permits**

**Where can Personal-Use pickers pick ?** Personal-Use Permits will be available for portions of the Chippy Fire and Jocko Lakes Fire, and for all other fires across the Forest.

**Are there areas that Personal-Use Permits are not valid on the Lolo?** Personal Use Permits are not valid within the area designated for Commercial Harvest on the Chippy Fire and the Jocko Lakes Fire.

**How much can a Personal-Use picker pick?** Personal-Use Permits allow collection of up to 20 gallons of mushrooms per permit. Additional permits may be purchased if desired. Each permit is valid for the entire season up to the 20 gallon limit.

**Are there Age Requirements for Personal-Use pickers?** Each person over the age of 12 who is collecting mushrooms for personal use is required to have a Personal-Use Permit.

**Does a mushroom picked for Personal-Use need to be sliced?** Yes, all mushrooms picked for personal use must be sliced in-half lengthwise at the time of picking.

**Where can I buy a Personal-Use Permit?** Personal-Use Permits will be available at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Missoula, and at any of the other Forest Administrative Offices located at Seeley Lake, Ninemile, Superior, Plains, and Thompson Falls.

**How much does a Personal-Use Permit cost?** Permits for the entire season will cost \$20 and are non-refundable.

**Are permits valid on any National Forest?** No, the permits purchased on this Forest are only valid on the Lolo National Forest.

## **Commercial Harvest Permits**

**Where can Commercial Harvesters pick ?** Commercial harvest areas will only be designated on a portion of the Chippy Fire and a portion of the Jocko Lakes Fire.

**How much can Commercial Harvesters pick?** Commercial Harvest Permits allow the harvest and re-sale of any quantity of mushrooms.

**Are there Age Requirements for Commercial Harvesters?** Each person, over the age of 12, who is collecting mushrooms for re-sale, is required to have a valid commercial harvest permit. Minors, ages 12-17, must have their permit co-signed by a parent, guardian, or sponsoring adult.

**Does a mushroom for Commercial Retail need to be sliced?** No, Commercial Harvesters do not need to slice the mushroom prior to sale to a Buyer.

**Where can I buy a Commercial Harvest Permit?** Commercial Harvest Permits will only be available for purchase at the Plains Ranger Station in Plains, Montana and at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station in Seeley Lake, Montana.

**How much does a Commercial Harvest Permit cost?** Fees for Commercial Harvest Permits depend on the length of stay, and are not refundable. The following fees will pertain to Commercial Harvest Permits:

Minimum 7-day Permit = \$20

30-day Permit = \$75

Season Permit = \$100

**Are permits valid on any National Forest?** No, the permits purchased on this Forest are only valid on the Lolo National Forest.